



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Light on The Light: Commentaries on Mammata - 35813

Last update 20-08-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Asian Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yigal Bronner

Coordinator Email: yigal.bronner@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Yigal Bronner

Course/Module description:

The Light on Poetry (Kāvyaṣa), written by Mammaṭa in late eleventh-century Kashmir, is the most successful treatise on Sanskrit poetics. No other book of its kind ever enjoyed as many readers or anything remotely like its numerous written responses. The work attracted scores of commentaries from every corner of the Indian subcontinent, appearing as early as several decades after its composition and as late as the twentieth century. Moreover, among those who threw light on the Light were representatives of almost every school of Indian thought, including grammarians, logicians, Vedic hermeneuts, experts on law, Jain intellectuals, devotees of Shiva and Vishnu, Vedānta theologians of various schools, Tantra specialists, and, of course, literary theorists and critics. In this course we will familiarize ourselves with the Light and with works that sought to comment on it.

Course/Module aims:

The course has two main goals. First, to impart the students with a quick and smooth technique of reading Sanskrit, both from the root text of Mammata and from the commentaries on it. Second, to familiarize the students with the genre of Sanskrit poets and its basic concepts.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To read smoothly and quickly a Sanskrit scientific text of medium difficulty, to learn how to make good use of the commentaries, and to understand and enjoy the poetic illustrations.

Attendance requirements(%):

According to divisional requirements.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading, rereading, and reading again and again. This requires preparation at home on a daily basis and active participating in class.

Course/Module Content:

For a detailed description of the required passages in Sanskrit and suggested secondary readings, please see the Moodle site.

Required Reading:

Please consult the Moodle site.

Additional Reading Material:

Please consult the Moodle site.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

Graduate students will be required to submit an additional assignment. Advanced undergraduate students will be graded based solely on the final exam and attendance.